



R E P R E S E N T A T I V E R U S H H O L T

Report To Middlesex County

FALL 2005

Dear Friend,

Families and individuals in Middlesex County are meeting a range of daily challenges. Each of us is trying to strengthen our communities, provide for our families, and prepare for the future. I am happy to have this opportunity to update you on some of the issues in Congress that affect people here in New Jersey.

I continue my efforts on the House Education and Workforce Committee to make college more affordable for families of hard-working students. I am also working to make K-12 education more robust by promoting math, science, and foreign language education. For those who are already employed, I have given a great deal of effort to improve pension security, prevent job loss due to unfair trade, and provide life-long learning opportunities for employees looking to change careers or move up the ladder.

As New Jersey's only representative on the House Intelligence Committee, I continue my work to prevent terrorist attacks and to support our servicemen and women around the world. In Iraq and Afghanistan, our troops are performing bravely and admirably. We owe it to them to provide the support and resources for them to do their job, as well as to begin bringing them home safely. Supporting our troops includes caring for all our veterans, new and old. That is the least we can do to repay their sacrifice.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. I invite you to attend one of my upcoming community meetings, listed on the back page. In order to help me understand your concerns, I hope you will contact me by letter (address below), e-mail (through my website at www.holt.house.gov), or phone (toll free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT).

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing and hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

New Jersey Office:

50 Washington Road • West Windsor, NJ 08550 • (609) 750-9365 • Toll Free: 1-87-RUSH-HOLT
(1-877-874-4658)

Washington Office:

1019 Longworth HOB • Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 225-5801

Please visit my Web site at www.holt.house.gov to learn more about what I am working on, and to sign-up for my occasional e-mail newsletter, the [eGenda](#).

Preventing Flooding

www.holt.house.gov

In April, a modest rainfall caused the worst flooding in New Jersey in fifty years – and the third major flood in nine months. Hundreds of people suffered damages to their homes, property, and businesses. Though I was happy that my request for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance to individuals affected was accepted, it is clear that we need a better solution to regular flooding across Central New Jersey.

When disasters like this happen, an active community must respond. For my part, I have tried to assist affected residents by:

- Going door-to-door to discuss flooding with residents and providing emergency contact information;
- Convening town meetings with Governor Codey's Flood Mitigation Task Force;

- Holding public Q&A sessions on assistance available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and
- Conducting a review with the Army Corps of Engineers, township mayors, and other local experts of affected communities to identify the source of the problem.

Preventing flooding in the near term is nearly impossible. A large part of the problem is that uncontrolled growth has eliminated many of our area's natural defenses against floods, such as wetlands and open space. We need a broad review of our growth patterns and a combined response from federal, state, and local authorities that addresses Central New Jersey's unique needs. ▶

Back to School: Higher Education for the 21st Century

Families in Middlesex County, which is home to Rutgers, know the value of education. As a member of the House Education Committee, I am working to ensure that the federal government is doing all it can to make college education more affordable.

Every five years, Congress has the opportunity to rewrite higher education laws to help students and families. Unfortunately, a budget resolution passed earlier this year to provide for domestic and international

programs and for tax cuts has mandated cuts of \$9 - \$11 billion to student aid programs over the next five years. This is a terrible mistake that I strongly oppose. In order to mitigate the harm to college affordability, I successfully added amendments to the bill that will:

- Expand Pell Grant eligibility for community college students;
- Establish a scholarship program for math, science, and engineering students; and
- Forgive student loans for students studying critical-need foreign languages.

Expanding college opportunity is critical to improving economic competitiveness, strengthening national security, and achieving our national priorities. Education for our workforce – young and old – is money well spent for our future success. ▶



Rush discusses his efforts to make college more affordable at a recent town meeting.

Safe and Efficient Transportation

www.holt.house.gov

Serving almost four million New Jerseyans in 2004, Amtrak is a vital part of our state's economy. I believe the federal government needs to do more to ensure that our mass transit systems are safe, secure, and reliable. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Rail and Public Transportation Security Act (H.R. 153), legislation that would provide a comprehensive plan to address vulnerabilities in security of freight and passenger rail transportation, including security screening, infrastructure upgrades, and more secure transport of hazardous materials.

A reliable mass transit system also requires reliable funding for Amtrak. Earlier this year, President Bush proposed eliminating federal support

for Amtrak, which would cause calamitous economic, traffic, and environmental consequences in New Jersey. Congress can restore federal support for Amtrak, and I will continue to fight for full funding as the appropriations process moves forward.

In my continuing effort to ease traffic congestion and decrease commute time, I was pleased that the recently-passed highway bill contained vital assistance for Middlesex County. I worked with Senators Corzine and Lautenberg to bring home \$6.8 million for the widening of Route 1 in South Brunswick, and secured \$1.6 million to replace the bridge between Riders Lane and Milltown Rd. in North Brunswick. ▀

Cleaner, Cheaper Energy

As crude oil hovers above \$60 per gallon, consumers are paying record high prices for gasoline and oil and gas for home heating. These prices affect our daily lives – families may skip a weekend trip, the daily commute takes a larger bite, and less disposable income is available for other necessities.

In August, President Bush signed a \$12.3 billion energy bill that even its sponsors acknowledge will have little, if any, effect on today's energy prices or our current dependence on foreign oil. Instead of investing in research for sustainable energy, the bill deepens our dependence on oil and gas. Having spent a large part of my career working on alternative energy, it is frustrating that promising technologies like solar power, electric vehicles, and fusion are given short-shrift. This makes it difficult to achieve the long-term strategy that



Rush joins state officials requesting assistance for low-income New Jerseyans dealing with soaring home energy costs.

our public and private sectors need to research and develop reliable and renewable energy sources.

We can do better. A sustained commitment to investment in energy research could minimize our dependence on foreign oil, make our air and water cleaner, and provide a new basis for U.S. industrial leadership. That is why I am a cosponsor of the New Apollo Energy Act, which would provide for a comprehensive alternative energy strategy. ▀

DID YOU KNOW?

Small businesses account for half of our domestic product and three-fourths of new jobs created every year. Rush has been working on ways to decrease the cost of health premiums and protect federal loans for entrepreneurs so that small businesses in New Jersey can prosper and expand.

**R E P.
RUSH
HOLT**

Town Hall Meetings /Office Hours

www.holt.house.gov

I hope to see you at these upcoming meetings to discuss issues such as Social Security, economic development, hometown security, health care, education, and anything else that may be on your mind.

Saturday, October 29

Old Bridge Township

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Old Bridge Library
One Old Bridge Plaza

Saturday, October 29

Marlboro Township

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Marlboro Library
Library Court and
Wyncrest Drive

Sunday, November 13

Oceanport Borough

2 – 3:30 p.m.

Oceanport Borough Hall
222 Monmouth Blvd.

Monday, November 21

Delaware Township

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Delaware Elementary School
501 Rosemont-Ringoes Road

To receive more regular updates about my activities in New Jersey and in Washington, D.C., please visit my webpage at www.holt.house.gov and sign up for my e-mail newsletter.

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

*As your Congressman,
I am here to help.
Contact me any time.*

New Jersey Office
50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
ph: 609-750-9365
fax: 609-750-0618

Washington Office
1019 Longworth House Office Bldg.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
ph: 202-225-5801
fax: 202-225-6025

Toll free: 1-87-RUSH-HOLT

To learn more or to send me an e-mail, go to: www.holt.house.gov

Representative Rush Holt
50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550

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and mailed at taxpayer expense.*



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